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Assistance in mine action

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Report of the Secretary-General*

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* The substantial increase in the reporting responsibilities of the United Nations Mine Action Service, as mandated and explicitly requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/191, delayed the release of the present report. The need to request and incorporate input from a variety of organizations outside the United Nations system further handicapped the Service's ability to provide its contribution in a more timely fashion. With regard to future report submissions, steps have been taken to ensure that this will no longer be a concern.

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I. Introduction

1. The issue of mine action has been on the agenda of the General Assembly since 1993. Most recently, in its resolution 54/191 of 17 December 1999, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-fifth session a report on the progress achieved on all relevant issues outlined in his previous reports on assistance in mine action, including the progress made by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other international and regional organizations, as well as national programmes, and on the operations of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request and provides information on the work of the various organizations involved in mine action. Details of the most familiar country programmes, such as those in Afghanistan, Cambodia and Mozambique, are included, as are those of more recent activities currently being undertaken in southern Lebanon, Guinea-Bissau and Ethiopia and Eritrea.

II. United Nations system

A. United Nations Mine Action Service

2. Over the past twelve months, the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat has concentrated on the implementation of United Nations mine-action policy, now well-defined and accepted, while facing the challenges of an increasing number of both humanitarian and operational commitments. Key among these has been the requirement to support new and evolving peacekeeping deployments to southern Lebanon, Sierra Leone and the Ethiopia/Eritrea region, while at the same time maintaining support to ongoing humanitarian and development-related activities. Efforts to monitor and assess the global landmine threat have also continued in 2000, with multidisciplinary assessment missions undertaken in Belarus, Egypt, Nicaragua and Zambia, and technical missions also undertaken in Abkhazia (Georgia), Ethiopia and Eritrea, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and southern Lebanon. Recommendations resulting from these missions continue to play a key role in formulating the international response to the landmine issue.

3. The assistance provided to the growing number of programmes and operations has been complemented by a continued focus on management and coordination issues in such areas as quality assurance, standards and information management. This is demonstrated in the development of a revised version of the current International Standards for Humanitarian Mine-Clearance Operations, which, when updated, will provide an effective framework integrating all aspects of the mine issue into a comprehensive package of quality and procedural guidelines. The Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), developed by the United Nations Mine Action Service and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), has been improved and deployed to a growing number of countries, including Azerbaijan, Chad, Estonia, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Nicaragua, Somalia, southern Lebanon, Thailand, Yemen and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Kosovo). The IMSMA field module is currently proving an effective tool for data analysis, planning and priority-setting in the field, while work has continued on the development of a complementary IMSMA global module.

4. With support provided by the international community, all of the above-mentioned projects have broadened the scope of the mine-action response and highlighted the role of the United Nations Mine Action Service in the coordination, implementation and oversight of United Nations policy in this area. Coordination continues to be facilitated through close cooperation and communication with all other United Nations agencies and organizations involved, as well as with external entities, thus ensuring the best use of resources and a focused response. Resources permitting, the Service will consolidate and continue these efforts in the coming year, using all available coordination and implementation mechanisms to facilitate the most proactive and effective response to the global landmine problem.

B. Department for Disarmament Affairs

5. Pursuant to recommendations arising from the First Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their

Destruction (hereinafter referred to as the Convention on anti-personnel mines),[1] the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat developed and implemented a computerized database for the collection, storage, retrieval and dissemination of data and information submitted by the States parties in providing initial reports and annual updates on transparency measures in accordance with article 7 of the Convention. During the period under review, 47 States parties submitted initial reports, of which 17 also submitted updated reports. Twenty-three of the 47 States parties submitted "nil" reports on stockpiles, while several mine-affected countries included maps in their reports. These activities were undertaken within the context of preparations for the Second Meeting of the States Parties, which was held at Geneva from 11 to 15 September 2000.

6. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/58 of 1 December 1999, the Department assisted the States parties to the Amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II)[2] to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (hereinafter referred to as the Convention on conventional weapons)[3] in convening their first annual Conference at Geneva from 15 to 17 December 1999. On the recommendation of the Conference, the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary, sent a letter to the Heads of State or Government of those States that had not yet acceded to Amended Protocol II, inviting their Governments to do so at the earliest possible date. The Department also provided services for an informal meeting of experts, held at Geneva from 31 May to 2 June 2000. The meeting discussed, among other things, international technical cooperation, international cooperation in the provision of assistance, exchange of information on the development of viable and cost-effective technologies that could eventually replace anti-personnel landmines, and other technical issues. To date, 50 States have adhered to Amended Protocol II.

C. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

7. In support of the United Nations Mine Action Service and its humanitarian partners, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat continues to make use of its field presence in complex emergency situations in order to ensure that the humanitarian aspects of landmines are addressed.

8. As part of its regular interaction with the United Nations Mine Action Service and other humanitarian partners, the Office shares on a regular basis reports on the humanitarian aspects of landmines in countries in which it is present both formally, through participation in the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, and through informal regular contacts among staff. Examples include the report of the mission to Sri Lanka in June 2000, which recommended that mine-action activities resume after they had been suspended owing to increased insecurity. The participation of the Office in the meetings of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group also provides opportunities for staff to support the United Nations Mine Action Service in planning, implementing and following up assessment missions to areas of complex emergency such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and the Caucasus.

9. As searchable information sources of the Office on the Internet, the ReliefWeb and Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN) sites produce daily and weekly analytical reports and articles for the humanitarian community, which often contain information on countries affected by landmines.

10. The Office also supports mine action through the use of the consolidated appeals process. Over US$ 51 million has been requested for mine-action activities in six countries or regions in the 2000 appeal, in support of United Nations agencies and their implementing partners. As at 27 September, however, only about US$ 23 million of the requested funding had been secured.

D. United Nations Development Programme

11. Working through its network of country offices, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assists Governments in developing long-term capacity to manage, prioritize and coordinate their mine-action programmes. A small specialized team is based at UNDP headquarters to provide direct support to the regional bureaux and country offices which, in turn,

assist Governments in areas such as capacity-building, provisional technical advice and training, resource mobilization and advocacy for a fully integrated approach to mine action.

12. UNDP is supporting mine-action capacity-building projects, all in various stages of development, in a number of countries. At the end of July 2000, there were ongoing UNDP programmes in Angola, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Croatia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Somalia and Yemen. Initial planning is under way for programmes in Albania, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon and Thailand, while a pilot programme is in place in Guinea-Bissau.

13. UNDP continues to provide support to host Governments in partnership with a number of organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system. Together with the United Nations Mine Action Service, UNDP has worked with the Government of Mozambique to ascertain the impact of devastating floods on the landmine problem in that country. Similarly, in close cooperation with the Service and GICHD, UNDP is working to support the introduction of the IMSMA system to numerous national mine-action programmes throughout the world. UNDP has initiated studies into the assessment of the socio-economic impact of mine action and the effectiveness of corresponding efforts to reintegrate landmine victims into society. UNDP is also in the process of carrying out a follow-up project to a 1999 study which assessed the training needs of national management staff and has resulted in the development of training packages for executive, senior and middle managers. In addition, the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) continues to be an active partner of UNDP, raising resources for mine clearance through the "Adopt-A-Minefield" campaign. Since 1999, UNA-USA has received over US$ 4 million in payments, pledges and grants, and the launch of a campaign in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was planned for the northern hemisphere in autumn of 2000.

14. In 1999, UNDP contributed approximately US$ 6 million of its resources for mine-action activities which, in turn, succeeded in raising a further US$ 30 million from donors in cost-sharing or contributions to UNDP trust funds. In parallel, UNDP also works closely with selected national mine-action programmes to coordinate comprehensive resource mobilization activities for each of the individual programmes.

E. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

15. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has long included mine-awareness, training and demining activities in its programme of activities. UNHCR is currently providing support to mine-action activities in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, where work has so far focused on villages and towns that have been subjected to nuisance mining, on land required for use by returning refugees and displaced persons and on unmarked minefields in close proximity to the local population. In this context, quality control checks were carried out to confirm that areas had been cleared to humanitarian standards.

16. In Western Sahara, the objective of UNHCR is to complete preparatory activities for the voluntary repatriation of Western Saharan refugees in accordance with the time-frame foreseen for the implementation of the United Nations settlement plan. Preparations carried out under the plan must ensure that repatriation will be voluntary and take place in conditions of safety and dignity and, towards this end, in 1999, Norwegian People's Aid completed a mine-awareness training programme.

17. In response to the peace process in Cambodia and the corresponding influx of returnees there, UNHCR mine-action efforts have identified the need to ensure the clearance of selected priority areas in support of reintegration efforts. In 1999, UNHCR signed agreements with specialized demining agencies and, together with corresponding efforts from relevant implementing agencies, this initiative will maintain the existing focus on mine-clearance efforts and ensure the safety of sites at which reintegration projects are to be developed. The target population of the project is primarily returnees who were repatriated during the first quarter of 1999 from refugee camps across the border in Thailand to their areas of origin, namely, Samlot and Oddar Meanchey. In this context, an assessment of the reintegration programme implemented between 1997 and 2000 was conducted in Cambodia during 2000, and its findings were discussed at a regional seminar, held in October 2000 and

prepared in collaboration with the Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit of UNHCR.

18. Demining activities have also served to encourage a number of non-governmental organizations to work in these areas. This is an important element for the future development of the region. Since UNHCR envisages phasing out its presence in Cambodia at the end of 2000, it is essential that non-governmental organizations and development agencies continue to support long-term poverty alleviation programmes.

F. United Nations Children's Fund

19. In keeping with its role as the United Nations focal point for mine-awareness education, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continues to implement and support mine-awareness programmes and provide the international community with appropriate guidance in that regard. UNICEF has participated in all inter-agency assessment missions led by the United Nations Mine Action Service to mine-affected countries and, in cooperation with its non-governmental partners, has prepared and developed further mine-awareness programmes based on the resulting assessments. On behalf of the United Nations system, UNICEF produced mine-awareness training modules for staff of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations throughout the world; the modules were launched during the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on anti-personnel mines, held at Geneva in September 2000. The international community has also called upon UNICEF to take the lead in developing international guidelines for the monitoring and evaluation of landmine and unexploded ordnance awareness programmes, in addition to international standards for such programmes. These processes will be initiated in 2000.

20. Liaising closely with concerned partners and in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and ICRC, UNICEF also continues to assist landmine survivors, using public health facilities and community-based rehabilitation. UNICEF supports non-governmental organizations working on the development of low-cost prosthetics, orthotics and other assistive devices, as well as rehabilitative services for disabled persons.

21. UNICEF continues to advocate universal ratification of the Convention on anti-personnel mines. In order to strengthen these efforts, the Executive Director of UNICEF, in February 2000, sent letters to the Heads of State of all signatories to the Convention, urging their Governments to ratify it as a matter of urgency. As a follow-up, further efforts have been initiated through regional and country offices of UNICEF, and updated ratification kits are being provided to support these efforts. In 2001, UNICEF and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) will co-host high-level regional conferences advocating against the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of mines, and urging further ratifications.

22. UNICEF is currently undertaking mine-awareness and victim assistance programmes in Albania, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Kosovo), Guatemala, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and southern Sudan. Programmes supported by the agency are based on sustainable, long-term local capacity-building initiatives. In dealing with the problem of landmines, UNICEF continues to integrate all mine-related issues into its regular programming. Under the auspices of the United Nations Mine Action Service, UNICEF is currently assisting the establishment of new programmes in southern Lebanon, the Golan Heights, Chad, Eritrea, Panama and Somalia.

G. United Nations Office for Project Services

23. United Nations policy on mine action identifies the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) as a principal provider of project services for the integrated and capacity-building mine-action programmes of the United Nations. The Mine Action Unit of UNOPS manages mine-action programmes on behalf of various United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Mine Action Service, UNDP and the Office of the Iraq Programme, and works closely with them at Headquarters to ensure the effective design of programmes and their timely delivery.

24. The Mine Action Unit provides project management support by combining systems, techniques and people to complete mine-action projects within established goals of time, budget and quality. This

support includes the provision of technical backstopping, legal advice and procurement services to United Nations mine-action programme managers throughout the world. The Mine Action Unit is actively involved in the development of the revised International Standards, and in the discussions to ensure their operational utility, as well as to ensure the greatest usefulness of IMSMA as an operational planning tool. The Mine Action Unit actively fosters the exchange of operational experience among mine-action programmes and the development of best practice. In the current year, attention is focused on the application of the revised International Standards and operational priority-setting for mine action.

25. UNOPS acts as a single, cost-effective source of mine-action services, ensuring value for money in the use of programme resources, and providing a standardized approach that can be applied to enhance mine-action programmes throughout the world. The Mine Action Unit has also developed the necessary legal agreements to work with Governments and organizations seeking to provide military and civilian personnel, equipment and services as in-kind contributions to mine-action programmes.

26. UNOPS is currently executing or providing services to 16 major mine-action programmes. In the past year, UNOPS has completed one emergency programme (Nicaragua, in cooperation with the United Nations Mine Action Service), significantly expanded activities in the northern governorates of Iraq (in cooperation with the Office of the Iraq Programme), and begun three new programmes (Guinea-Bissau, in cooperation with UNDP and southern Lebanon and Eritrea/Ethiopia, in cooperation with the United Nations Mine Action Service).

III. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

A. CARE International

27. CARE International has maintained and increased its commitment to implementing mine-awareness and mine-action programmes. In this regard, it makes ongoing efforts to tie such programmes into the larger context of humanitarian relief and rehabilitation activities in order to achieve greater productivity, renew access to markets and essential services, and reduce reliance on outside assistance. CARE International has launched a number of programmes during the period 1999-2000, inclusive of a mine-awareness project in Albania, a mixed package of mine-awareness and mine-clearance activities in Angola, mine-clearance and mine-awareness training in Kosovo, survey, mapping and clearance activities in Somalia and a comprehensive development initiative in Cambodia, integrating priority-setting, mine-awareness and impact assessment initiatives. All of these projects are conducted in cooperation with existing coordination mechanisms and with national level, United Nations and other mine-action activities operating at each location, with the majority of these implemented in partnership with the Mine-Tech company.

B. Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

28. GICHD is an independent and impartial expert organization within the international framework of mine action. GICHD was founded in 1998 on the initiative of the Government of Switzerland, and has since become an international foundation supported by numerous Governments.

29. The mandate of GICHD is to promote cooperation in the field of mine action by providing support and assistance to a number of initiatives being undertaken by a variety of partners, in particular the United Nations Mine Action Service. Projects recently undertaken by GICHD, on behalf of UNDP and the Service, include studies on socio-economic indicators, a study on mine-detection dogs and a study on operational requirements. Work on a revision of the International Standards is also being carried out for the United Nations Mine Action Service, while an analysis of mine-action capabilities in the Balkans was recently completed on behalf of the European Commission.

30. With specific reference to operational support, GICHD focused its efforts on the further promotion and development of the IMSMA system. IMSMA is being developed on an ongoing basis by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, in close cooperation with the United Nations Mine Action Service, and has already become a valuable decision-making support tool in a number of current mine-action programmes. Plans are also under way to install and provide on-site training in the IMSMA system in several other mine-

action programmes, in accordance with the priorities set out by the United Nations. In the meantime, a number of GICHD experts have participated in parallel United Nations efforts throughout the world, including United Nations assessment missions to Zimbabwe, Namibia, Zambia, Egypt and Belarus. In a similar manner, consultative work has also been carried out by GICHD on behalf of the Croatian Mine Action Centre, ICRC and on behalf of the Governments of Switzerland and Germany.

31. In March 2000, GICHD hosted the third meeting of mine-action programme directors and advisers, convened by the United Nations Mine Action Service, and, more recently, provided the necessary organization and venue for meetings held within the context of the inter-sessional work programme, a process which is critical to the effective and timely implementation of the Convention on anti-personnel mines.

C. Handicap International

32. Handicap International has long been involved in various facets of mine action. Activities undertaken by Handicap International (Belgium) include advocacy work and the rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of disabled persons in such countries as Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Afghanistan and Albania. Handicap International (Belgium) has assisted in clearance operations being undertaken in Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and has been involved in mine-awareness activities in Afghanistan and Albania. In addition, as at August 2000, Handicap International (Belgium) is planning to initiate an emergency unexploded ordnance clearance and awareness programme in the Kisangani region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

33. Working in parallel, Handicap International (France) has developed a number of mine-action projects, including survey work, risk reduction education and mine-clearance operations in several affected countries. Since November 1999, Handicap International (France) has been working with the Government of Chad in the conduct of a level I survey, and has assisted in the conduct of clearance operations in Angola, Mozambique, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. Efforts to provide risk reduction education have also been made in the Casamance region of Senegal, in Somali refugee camps in Ethiopia and in Thailand, along the border with Myanmar and Cambodia.

D. International Campaign to Ban Landmines

34. ICBL continued its activities on a global scale, including the holding of regional and thematic conferences and participation in key mine-action forums. Emphasis was placed on the second anniversary of the opening for signature of the Convention on anti-personnel mines and the first anniversary of its entry into force, 1 March 2000, as advocacy opportunities.

35. ICBL fully participated in the inter-sessional work programme relating to the Convention, aligning existing ICBL working groups with the four inter-sessional standing committees, while the ICBL Mine Action Working Group has also been active in seeking to assist State parties to the Convention in fulfilling their obligations. This Group has also participated in the development of mine-action standards and studies, and enhanced its relationship with the Survey Working Group and Survey Action Centre.

36. The second annual Landmine Monitor Report, Landmine Monitor Report 2000: *Toward a Mine-Free World*,[4] compiled by 115 researchers from 85 countries, was released by ICBL during the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in September 2000. This publication contains information on every country in the world with respect to mine use, production, trade and stockpiling, humanitarian demining and mine survivor assistance, and has proved a valuable tool for both advocacy and information purposes.

37. At the Second Meeting of States Parties, ICBL was represented by a large delegation of campaigners, deminers, survivors and *Landmine Monitor* researchers from around the world. In addition to launching *Landmine Monitor Report*, ICBL organized exhibitions, briefings, film screenings and other media events to coincide with the meeting.

E. International Committee of the Red Cross

38. As part of its mandate to assist victims of armed conflict, ICRC works to alleviate the suffering of mine

victims and mine-affected communities throughout the world.

39. At the local level, ICRC focuses its efforts on providing curative care and prosthetic services to mine victims. It also conducts mine-awareness programmes to help reduce the threat to those living in a mine-contaminated environment. At the national and international levels, ICRC works closely with Governments, international agencies and non-governmental organizations to universalize and implement the Conventions on conventional weapons and anti-personnel mines. In this context, ICRC has organized a number of national and regional conferences for governmental representatives to promote understanding of and adherence to all relevant treaty regimes.

40. ICRC currently provides curative care for war-wounded, including mine victims, in 22 countries. This includes the provision of direct assistance to hospitals, first-aid posts and other health facilities in the form of medicine, staff, medical and surgical supplies, equipment and training. ICRC also provides specialized training in the management of war wounds, including sessions on how to treat mine injuries. Protheses, orthoses, walking aids and physiotherapy are made available to mine victims at physical rehabilitation centres, while financial and technical assistance is provided to additional projects formerly operated by ICRC but which have since been handed over to appropriate organizations.

41. ICRC mine-awareness programmes seek to reduce the number of casualties caused by mines and unexploded ordnance, and can be found in a number of regions throughout the world. Mine and unexploded ordnance awareness teams work closely with affected communities and local authorities, acting as an effective interface between those communities and the humanitarian sector.

F. Landmine Survivors Network

42. Landmine Survivors Network (LSN) assists survivors in their efforts to gain access to available rehabilitation and socio-economic integration mechanisms and, as such, focuses its efforts on victim assistance and advocacy issues. LSN serves on the Coordinating Committee of ICBL, and chairs its Working Group on Victim Assistance. LSN also advocates universal compliance with the Convention on anti-personnel mines, and was successful in having language included in the treaty that makes explicit the obligations of States Parties' to provide appropriate assistance to mine victims.

43. With regard to activities undertaken at the operational level and with assistance provided by the United Nations Mine Action Service and UNOPS, LSN has established amputee peer support networks in four landmine-affected countries, and is working to establish a fifth in El Salvador. These networks assist survivors in identifying their needs and linking them with requisite support services or assistance.

44. Of particular interest in this context is the development of a research methodology for the collection of data on services for rehabilitation and socio-economic integration. LSN has created and launched the first Internet-accessible database which contains a directory of support services for persons with disabilities in landmine-affected countries. By being able to track the provision of services and identify gaps, this database is an effective information tool that facilitates the coordination of victim assistance activities. In a similar effort, LSN also completed a pilot project in which youth ambassadors from non-affected countries trained young landmine victims from Bosnia and Herzegovina in basic computer skills and in the use of database software and the Internet.

G. Mines Advisory Group

45. Mines Advisory Group (MAG) was founded in an effort to address the impact that mines and unexploded ordnance have on people and their lives in the aftermath of conflict. MAG clearance operations are currently under way in a number of affected countries, including Viet Nam, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Kosovo, Iraq and Angola, and MAG efforts in these countries are further enhanced by ongoing research into new methods for improving clearance rates. As an example, field trials of a locally manufactured rotavator in the northern Iraq programme will commence in the second half of 2000, while in Kosovo, MAG is using a Minecat-230 in support of manual clearance teams. Effective use is also being made of Ebinger large loop detectors in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam.

46. Within this context, MAG continues its policy of nationalization of programmes and has developed working relationships with national coordinating bodies where they exist, including the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA), the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) and the national unexploded ordnance programme in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (UXO LAO). MAG also works closely with the United Nations: in Angola in support of the World Food Programme, in Cambodia with the UNHCR road clearance project, and in Kosovo, where MAG has organized a mine-awareness children's road show in association with UNICEF, with the Kosovo Force (KFOR) providing logistical support.

H. Norwegian People's Aid

47. Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) is one of the major non-governmental organizations involved in mine action, and is active throughout the world. In Africa, NPA has employed a variety of techniques in its support of mine-clearance efforts. In Angola, despite a worsening security situation throughout 1999, NPA has employed a combination of clearance technologies to complete a level I survey in 13 provinces. In Mozambique, NPA is working in three central provinces as part of a mine-action programme for which the management has been completely nationalized, while in Western Sahara, NPA has been active in providing a mine-awareness programme directed towards Saharawi refugees presently living in camps in the Tindouf area in Algeria. This project was closely coordinated with the relevant United Nations organizations active in the area and, in May 2000, succeeded in reaching a majority of the population in the area.

48. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, NPA has limited its assistance to UXO LAO to the provision of training to national and local staff in administration and finance issues, and in the disposal of explosive ordnance. The organization works closely with UNDP and UNICEF, with expectations that all NPA personnel will leave the Lao People's Democratic Republic by June 2001. NPA started work in Cambodia in 1991, and integrated its operations there with CMAC. The local demining force in Cambodia was doubled in 1999, and the project currently employs some 110 national staff. Plans for the period 2000-2001 include the full nationalization of all positions. In Thailand, NPA commenced a level I impact survey in June 2000 at the request of the United Nations Mine Action Service, under the auspices of the Survey Action Centre. NPA aims to have the survey completed and all of its objectives realized by March 2001.

49. In Europe, NPA has 200 personnel in Bosnia and Herzegovina assisting in clearance operations. There are four mine clearance teams operating in Kosovo, in addition to the two under the operational control of the Mine Action Coordination Centre. NPA has two mine-awareness teams working in support of clearance operations being undertaken in Kosovo, some of which were carried out for the first time by a platoon consisting exclusively of female deminers.

I. Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation/Survey Action Centre

50. In 1991, the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF), along with Medico International, founded the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. VVAF has since built on this early momentum, and continues to support a number of mine-action initiatives. Of particular relevance is the management by VVAF of the Survey Action Centre (SAC) and the Global Landmine Survey initiative. Representing an international consortium of non-governmental organizations, SAC conducts high-quality socio-economic impact surveys of mine-affected countries, the intent being to provide analysis and decision-making support to the international donor community, national mine-action managers and interested non-governmental organizations in their resource allocation and planning processes.

51. During the past 12 months, SAC has undertaken a number of projects. A full impact survey has been completed in Yemen, an emergency deployment and modified survey has been completed in Kosovo, and full impact surveys have been initiated in Chad and Thailand. Advance survey missions have been conducted in north-west Somalia, Afghanistan and Lebanon in support of the potential execution of impact surveys, while quality assurance monitoring was also provided to the survey being undertaken in Mozambique, with the assistance of the Government of Canada.

52. With regard to victim assistance activities, VVAF has also been active in Kosovo, Cambodia, Angola and

El Salvador, and has provided some field support to local efforts in Sierra Leone and Viet Nam.

J. World Rehabilitation Fund

53. The World Rehabilitation Fund (WRF) was founded in 1955 with a focus on victim assistance issues and the development and promotion of culturally relevant services in war-torn and developing nations. Most recently, WRF began a partnership with UNDP in a three-year effort to plan and promote new approaches to the socio-economic integration of landmine victims and others with disabilities. Selected for this project were Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon and Mozambique.

54. Since the initiation of the project in mid-1999, WRF has conducted needs assessment missions in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Lebanon, with a trip to Mozambique scheduled to take place by the end of 2000. WRF has formulated plans for pilot projects within the three countries, and is beginning to move from the planning phase to implementation in Cambodia and Lebanon. Over the next six months, WRF also expects to move from planning to implementation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mozambique.

IV. Regional organization: Organization of American States

55. The Assistance Programme for Demining in Central America (PADCA) has continued and expanded operations as a multilateral humanitarian project in the region. Within the framework of PADCA, one of the main responsibilities of the Organization of American States (OAS) is to raise, administer and oversee the use of funds from the international community, and to coordinate the programme from a political and diplomatic standpoint. In this regard, donor funding over the past year has amounted to approximately US$ 4.8 million.

56. During the same period, activities were maintained and expanded in Costa Rica in terms of demining, mine awareness, medical support and helicopter assistance. In Guatemala, mine clearance was supported and PADCA/(Guatemala) played a correspondingly major role in the revision of the national demining plan. In eastern Honduras, large areas have been cleared of mines, with the focus now shifting to the southern zone of the country and additional efforts being made regarding mine awareness and destruction of stockpiles. Stockpiles have also been an issue in Nicaragua, while new operations have been instigated through the Mine Clearance Assistance Mission in Central America (MARMINCA). Related victim assistance and awareness training activities were also continued in this context. The Programme for Demining Assistance in Ecuador/Peru (PADEP) has been established to support border demarcation, while support has also been given to planning processes.

57. Relations with the International Rehabilitation Centre, the Trust for the Americas and the Pan American Health Organization were initiated and expanded upon by OAS, which has also been working in cooperation with the United Nations Mine Action Service in the deployment of an information management system in the region. Initiatives such as these will help to ensure that a comprehensive response to the landmine problem is taken in the Americas.

V. Country programmes

A. Afghanistan

58. Working in close cooperation with United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and other entities, the Mine Action Programme Afghanistan (MAPA) has maintained operations in one of the most mine-affected areas of the world. MAPA has continued its work as an innovator of mine-action techniques, and has continuously improved on its safety record (accident rates dropped from between 60 and 70 each year prior to 1998, to 6 in the first half of 2000) and cost-effectiveness (50 per cent increased output, with 65 per cent cost reduction per square metre over six years).

59. In the period 1999-2000, over 43.7 square kilometres of high-priority mined areas and 101.2 square kilometres of former battlefield were cleared in 20 provinces of Afghanistan, with a further 51 square kilometres of mined area and 103.8 square kilometres of former battlefield being surveyed and marked. Some 28,000 mines and 265,000 unexploded ordnance were destroyed during 1999, with a further 160,574 destroyed in 2000. MAPA also provided mine-

awareness training to 332,396 civilians, provided mine-clearance training in order to maintain the current level of staffing and expanded mechanical mine clearance by one excavation team.

60. Efforts to improve mine awareness, information management and advocacy were also enhanced with the continued development of the MAPA database, while advocacy efforts, led by the Afghan Campaign to Ban Landmines, have resulted in the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan issuing a proclamation banning the production, use and stockpiling of landmines.

61. During the first half of 2000, MAPA received US$ 5.8 million against its total requirement of US$ 26.3 million, including a cash carry-over of US$ 2.7 million from 1999. At present, US$ 3.8 million in pledges is currently outstanding, while US$ 14 million is urgently needed to undertake activities through to the end of 2000.

B. Angola

62. Since its inception in 1995, clearance activities undertaken in Angola have resulted in the return of more than 10 million square metres of land in 12 provinces that was previously contaminated with landmines and unexploded ordnance. With particular reference to efforts made by non-governmental organizations, 110 sites have been cleared of mines and unexploded ordnance so far this year in Bengo, Bie, Huambo, Huila, Kuanza Norte, Kunene and Malange provinces.

63. Despite the ongoing conflict in Angola, mine-action partners have managed to continue operations in the country, including their survey, marking, clearance and mine-awareness activities. A general survey has been conducted in 16 of the 18 provinces of Angola, covering some 80 per cent of the population. Data collected as part of the ongoing survey process are stored in the database of the National Mine Action Institute (INAROEE), and have been expanded to include socio-economic and accident surveillance data.

64. Through its approval of the preparatory assistance project in July 1999, UNDP support to the mine-action programme in Angola was extended, with an emphasis on capacity-building, mine awareness, database and survey development, resource mobilization and the coordination of mine-action activities through the establishment of mechanisms among all partners. In this regard, a coordinating mechanism for mine-awareness has been established within INAROEE in 12 provinces and is to be extended to an additional 2 provinces in August 2000. UNICEF is also assisting in the development of mine-awareness capacities, including mine-awareness education, community sensitization, local and national anti-mine advocacy and mine accident surveillance.

C. Azerbaijan

65. During the period under review, the initial stages of establishing a mine-action programme in Azerbaijan have been reached. This included, with assistance provided by UNDP and UNOPS, the establishment and development of the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA). Activities undertaken subsequently by ANAMA include the development of a national strategy for mine action, national standards for mine action and annual work plans. Similarly, the mine-awareness capacity of ICRC has also been subsumed by ANAMA, while in future UNICEF will conduct mine-awareness activities in close consultation with this implementing body.

66. With regard to other mine-action partners active in Azerbaijan, MAG has been contracted by UNOPS to conduct training and supervise the manual demining and level II survey capacity of the national non-governmental organization, Relief Azerbaijan. In an effort to promote sustainability, MAG will also develop a national training and supervisory capacity, all of which has been funded through contributions from UNDP, the Government of Azerbaijan (benefiting from World Bank and direct contributions) and the Governments of Japan, Switzerland and Canada. Recently, the Government of the United States of America has provided funds through UNDP to field a dog support group for quality assurance, clearance and survey support activities, and for the implementation of a level I survey. In addition, the Government of Norway has provided funding to extend the operation of ANAMA.

67. Future mine-action efforts will focus on the development of national elements that are able to deal with the current situation and any potential requirement to address any expanded concerns. This will require rapid nationalization and the development of training capacities. With regard to funding, there remains a

significant shortfall since the programme's inception in 1999.

D. Bosnia and Herzegovina

68. In the past year, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been that of reinforcement of all aspects of the mine-action programme, in particular the consolidation of the national management structure that is now supported by a technical advisory team approximately one tenth of its size when first established in July 1998.

69. Mine action continues to be a multifaceted effort, with all elements, to varying degrees, showing improvements in performance. The bulk of the clearance work continues to be conducted by commercial organizations, but emphasis is shifting from international companies to competent and sustainable local organizations. Subject to funding, the total capacity in Bosnia and Herzegovina is approaching 2,000 trained deminers, with appropriate levels of support from dog teams and a variety of ground preparation machines. The entity armies are also poised to play a more active role in this regard, with a large workforce and the provision of new equipment supported by the Canadian and Norwegian Governments. Non-governmental organizations continue to remain active in Bosnia and Herzegovina and are having a major impact.

70. UNDP is providing support to mine-action centres which are responsible for the coordination of this complex environment and which have, for pragmatic reasons, reduced their activity to the fundamental responsibilities of establishing and maintaining standards, prioritization, technical development and the maintenance of a database relevant to all activities. At the same time, an extensive general survey programme has been implemented in order to transform priorities into schedules of clearance tasks. These tasks are then subject to the appropriate level of quality control, with a resulting increase of activity at the appropriate level of priority, at higher standards and at generally reduced costs. On this basis, the centres have clearly established their role in the overall capability in-country.

71. Mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina has moved well beyond the emergency response phase and must now deal with the challenge of maintaining donor support. It is hoped that this will be achieved by a straightforward combination of improved results and demonstrated responsibility towards donor contributions. To this end, the Demining Commission, UNDP and the directors of the mine-action centres are continually working to improve all aspects of the national plan.

E. Cambodia

72. Since its inception in 1993, the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) has, with the support of the international community, continued to evolve into one of the most important national demining institutions in the world, with a staff of over 3,000 by the end of 1999, more than 2,270 of whom are directly involved in mine clearance. Following a management and financial audit commissioned by UNDP in 1999 that highlighted a number of deficiencies in its management, CMAC is now in a phase of consolidation of its existing capacity and increasing cost/efficiency ratio, together with a tightening of internal monitoring and control mechanisms. A CMAC white paper, prepared in consultation with donors, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations, was issued early in 2000 and sets out a plan for continued reform. An external assessment of the response of CMAC to the audits, conducted in February and March 2000, concluded that the white paper represented a genuine effort by CMAC to respond to donor concerns, and contains worthwhile proposals. It stressed, however, that the future of CMAC should be seen in a broader, national perspective. Towards this end, the Government of Cambodia and UNDP will be holding a national symposium in late 2000.

73. Most recently, the Government of Cambodia established the Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMAA) as a separate body to focus on policy issues and to permit CMAC to focus on operational issues. This situation is evolving, and the respective roles of CMAA as a regulatory authority and CMAC as a service provider (together with non-governmental organizations active in the sector) will be clarified at the national symposium.

74. The focus on improving and restructuring management, however, did not slow mine action in the field. A level I impact survey is well under way, and will provide a comprehensive picture of the extent of

landmine contamination and its socio-economic impact on the local population. This, in turn, will improve prioritization and allocation of resources. Land use planning units have been established by the governments of a number of provinces, with the support of CMAC. The role of the units is to advise on clearance priorities, and to certify ownership of cleared land. In 1999, the 67 platoons of CMAC cleared 10,797,705 square metres of land, comprising 56 minefields on 18 sites. Over the same period, CMAC mine-awareness teams reached 312,369 people.

75. CMAC continues to work in close partnership with non-governmental organizations, such as the Mines Advisory Group and HALO Trust, which form an integral part of the country's overall response to landmine contamination. It also cooperates closely with all United Nations agencies. As an example, approximately 15,000 Cambodians were repatriated from refugee camps in Thailand and settled in the Samlot district of Battambang province this year. The need to clear the land and provide mine-awareness education prior to their repatriation was considered an emergency, and CMAC worked closely with UNHCR on an integrated project to fulfil that need.

F. Chad

76. The mine-action programme currently in place in Chad and supported by UNDP consists of a regional mine-action centre in Faya Largeau, with the national mine-action centre and a national demining school based in N'Djamena. In addition to UNDP support, UNOPS has contracted six technical advisers to assist in developing a mine-action capacity.

77. Activities undertaken include the conduct of mine-awareness campaigns in selected areas of the country and the hiring by UNICEF of a mine-awareness specialist, with a view to developing a comprehensive mine-awareness programme. ICRC has also begun a victim assistance programme in Chad, providing lower limb prosthetics to mine victims and developing a national capacity for the production of prosthetics and the provision of rehabilitation therapy.

78. A national demining school has also been established, where some 20 instructors, 40 administrative staff and 120 deminers have already been trained. A level I survey is currently being conducted by Handicap International and is expected to be complete in February 2001, while demining and explosive ordnance disposal, conducted under the supervision of the German non-governmental organization Help, have been initiated in Faya Largeau and N'Djamema. In addition, a mine database and mine-action web site have also been developed with assistance from GICHD, the University of Toronto and UNDP. More generally, programme funds have been mobilized from several additional sources, including the Governments of Canada, Germany, Italy, the United States, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Japan.

G. Croatia

79. During the period under review, the Mine Action Assistance Programme in Croatia (UNMAAP) has been characterized by some structural changes, including greater integration with the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC), a change in the programme's status from a programme of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to a UNDP project, and an emphasis on capacity-building measures. Within this context, CROMAC has been undergoing a total quality management review with the aim of improving existing processes and following up recent initiatives.

80. Mine plans have been developed for the 14 mine-affected counties in Croatia, and a programme of evaluation and certification of companies, equipment, demining machines and explosive detection dogs has been instituted. Over 23.4 square kilometres of land was demined in 1999, and an additional 15 square kilometres were returned to normal use through area reduction programmes. Additional personnel have been hired, and improved training techniques and close supervision of the demining process have reduced casualties among deminers by over 50 per cent.

81. A lack of resources remains the primary obstacle to mine-action efforts in Croatia. The principal donors include the Governments of the United States, through the International Trust Fund, Japan, Canada, the United Kingdom, Italy and Belgium. A European Union demining assistance mission has also supplemented UNMAAP and CROMAC. Even so, support for Croatia's efforts from the international community remains limited and a funding shortfall exists for the next two phases of the programme.

H. Eritrea and Ethiopia

82. Earlier conflicts and the recent war between Eritrea and Ethiopia have left significant numbers of landmines and unexploded ordnance littered throughout contested areas in both countries.

83. Eritrea and Ethiopia have requested that a United Nations peacekeeping force be deployed to monitor the ceasefire currently in place, and that the United Nations Mine Action Service assist the parties' mine-action efforts by providing technical advice and coordination. Towards this end, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations recommended in July 2000 that an emergency mine-action assistance programme be established, its primary objective being to support the deployment of the peacekeeping force and to ensure the safety of the returning population. In doing so, a mine-action coordination centre has been established. The Centre is located at Asmara, together with the main logistics base of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), and liaison offices are located at Addis Ababa.

84. The Centre is currently operational, with a core staff of four international experts. A rapid landmine survey was initiated early in September, and is expected to be completed by the end of December 2000. The survey will provide accurate and standardized information to the landmine database of the Centre, which will be used to plan future mine-action operations. In this regard, Bangladesh, Kenya and Slovakia have agreed to contribute engineering units to UNMEE, and these units will provide additional mine-clearance capacity. The Governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia are also actively clearing mines on their own territories, a significant force multiplier, provided that an appropriate certification mechanism for completed clearance operations can be arranged with the Centre.

I. Guinea-Bissau

85. The conflict which broke out in Guinea-Bissau in June 1998 and which lasted just 11 months had a considerable cost in human life and destruction of housing and social infrastructure. Since the end of the conflict, the population has been returning to Bissau, and the laying of mines presents a real danger to the provision of humanitarian aid, the social reintegration of the population and the resumption of economic activity. It is estimated that there are in the region of 20,000 landmines, as well as a considerable quantity of unexploded ordnance in a belt approximately 12 kilometres long and 6 kilometres wide, encompassing both residential and agricultural areas. In addition to mined areas in and around Bissau city, mines can also be found in the northern border areas of the country.

86. At the request of the Government, UNDP has started a limited programme to support the development of national mine-action capacity in Guinea-Bissau. This envisages the establishment of a small national mine-action centre which would be responsible for planning, coordinating and managing mine-action activities. A Chief Technical Adviser is currently working on a part-time basis, providing assistance to the National Director in developing such a centre. A national non-governmental organization, ANDES, has been conducting mine awareness activities, with additional support proffered by other organizations. A second local non-governmental organization, HUMAID, has trained a core complement of 28 persons who are now conducting mine and unexploded ordnance clearance operations.

87. International donors have made available some support to the mine-action programme in Guinea-Bissau, but further support will be needed in order to strengthen and sustain the existing capacity and allow the landmine problem to be addressed in an appropriate manner.

J. Iraq

88. Landmine and unexploded ordnance contamination continues to present a significant problem to the population of northern Iraq. In response, the Mine Action Programme (MAP) is conducting a coordinated programme of survey, awareness training and clearance activities. Information from the level 1 impact survey being conducted by UNOPS in 90 per cent of the villages in the three northern governorates has identified 3,187 mined areas, affecting 503 square kilometres of land, and has confirmed 10,707 victims. Information gathered in this regard is also being collated in a database.

89. Mine clearance in northern Iraq has been enhanced with the use of new tools, such as improved mine detectors, mechanical systems and mine and unexploded ordnance detection dogs. Clearance teams

are currently working in 25 minefields, have returned 24 cleared minefields to community use, and have begun work on a further 24 (although the work has had to be temporarily abandoned). In late 1999, the mine-action programme contracted two local engineering companies to develop, manufacture, test and deploy two local mechanical systems, to assist with ground preparation prior to manual clearance. The programme has also provided assistance to prosthetic and emergency surgical centres and mine awareness training for United Nations staff in the region, and is involved in the training and deployment of 12 additional level I survey teams. The programme is funded by the programme support costs of the oil-for-food programme, with a budget of US$ 41,990,000 during the initial seven phases, with an eighth phase expected to cost approximately US$ 36,890,000. Future plans focus on recruiting, training and equipping further staff for clearance, explosive ordnance disposal and survey activities and expanding mechanical clearance, while also enhancing local capacity.

K. Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

90. Working under the auspices of the United Nations Mine Action Service and with support provided by UNOPS, an integrated mine-action programme is currently under way in Kosovo. The Mine Action Coordination Centre established in Pristina has developed a concept plan for mine action, consisting of three phases.

91. The preliminary phase was completed on 24 August 1999, and involved the establishment of the Centre, a rapid assessment of the mine threat by HALO Trust, emergency mine awareness, and development of a mine victim surveillance system, in cooperation with ICRC, WHO and non-governmental partners. The emergency phase of the plan commenced on 25 August 1999 and was completed on 31 December 1999. This phase involved a concerted mine clearance effort to assist in the repair and rehabilitation of essential services, infrastructure and shelter. The objective was to prevent a humanitarian crisis from occurring over the winter months, coinciding with the return of 900,000 refugees. The integration of mine awareness education into the overall plan played an important part in the success achieved during this period, and teams from a number of non-governmental organizations and ICRC worked in close cooperation with clearance organizations.

92. The mine-action programme of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) has now entered the consolidation phase, which is a three-year clearance plan to build upon the achievements of the emergency phase in 1999. The operational plan for mine and unexploded ordnance clearance during this phase is based upon systematic clearance of prioritized areas, in accordance with a mine impact analysis completed in February 2000 by the Survey Action Centre.

93. Clearance achievements to date include 202 high-priority, 166 medium-priority and 65 low-priority mined or dangerous areas, and over 12,500 of an estimated 30,000 cluster bombs (including clearance by KFOR). Work also continues on a further 200 minefields. At the same time, the Mine Action Coordination Centre has focused on maintaining a close integration between mine-clearance and mine-awareness organizations.

94. The UNMIK mine-action programme has been well supported by donors since its inception in June 1999. Donations to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action have totalled US$ 7,739,242, which has been used to fund the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre and crucial operational capacities. Donors have also continued to provide bilateral support to the various mine-action organizations operating in Kosovo under the coordination umbrella of the Centre. Given a sustained level of support from the international community, the Centre firmly believes that the landmine and unexploded ordnance threat in Kosovo can be comprehensively dealt with by December 2002.

L. Lao People's Democratic Republic

95. The national unexploded ordnance programme, UXO LAO, is now in its fifth year of operation and remains active in nine of the most severely contaminated provinces in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The UXO LAO programme is currently in a consolidation stage and, for the time being, will remain at current staff levels. Procedures, training and operational standardization are priorities for programme management, in addition to the

overriding goal of reducing casualties and increasing the amount of priority land cleared.

96. The standardization and nationalization of operations continue, with the support of international implementing partner organizations. The United States "Train the trainer" programme concluded successfully in September 1999, with all courses now being run by national staff with the assistance of one United Nations Adviser, while a number of other donor Governments, international agencies and non-governmental organizations continue to work in support of UXO LAO activities.

97. During the period under review, the implementation of more sophisticated work planning mechanisms has led to opportunities for better targeting of resources and effective cost/benefit analysis. Community-awareness teams are nearing completion of their initial education visits to villages affected by unexploded ordnance, which will be followed up by roving clearance teams that will continue to identify and remove substantial numbers of unexploded ordnance. Area clearance teams are correspondingly active, with a full list of priority tasks.

98. The annual national running costs of UXO LAO are US$ 3.1 million, with additional costs associated with new and replacement equipment and those pertaining to international training and technical support. Overall programme costs are becoming lower as national capacity grows, although international funding support remains critical for the continuance of the programme. The funding position for 2001 is becoming critical, with an estimated shortfall of US$ 3 million for national costs, and approximately US$ 5 million required for the support of international implementing partners.

M. Mozambique

99. Previous support provided by UNDP to the Government of Mozambique in an effort to restructure existing mine-action institutional mechanisms ended in March 1999. Action taken by the Government since then has included the approval of legislation which changed the status and structure of the original national mine-clearance commission to a semi-governmental institute, known as the Instituto Nacional de Desminagem (IND). Other initiatives undertaken by the Government during the period under review include its signature and ratification of the Convention on anti-personnel mines, and the subsequent hosting of the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention at Maputo in May 1999.

100. Current mine-action activities in Mozambique are being undertaken by several partners. With UNDP assistance, the nationally executed accelerated demining programme is operating in the three southernmost provinces of the country, while the non-governmental organizations, NPA and HALO Trust, are active in the central and northern provinces. In addition, commercial operators are still active in Mozambique, either being contracted through IND or directly by commercial companies with business interests in the country. IND is also receiving support from UNDP with regard to capacity-building and flood-related mine-action projects. Corresponding project documents were signed in August 2000, with references to project budgets of US$ 3,731,910 over a period of three years, and US$ 5,994,600 over a period of 12 months, respectively.

101. UNICEF, working through Handicap International, is the leading agency for mine-awareness and mine-victim assistance issues and, in cooperation with selected governmental and non-governmental organizations, has been active among affected populations. UNICEF is also engaged in the training of local staff and purchase of equipment and machinery used for the local manufacture and adaptation of prostheses.

N. Somalia

102. Mine-action activities in Somalia have so far been concentrated in the north-west part of the country, which is estimated to have the highest density of minefields. The responsibility for mine action in this part of the country is vested in the National Demining Agency, working under the auspices of the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Resettlement. In addition, and with UNDP funding, the Ministry has established the Somalia Mine Action Centre (SMAC), which is responsible for the overall coordination of mine action in the region, and the development of a mine-action plan and execution thereof. Of related interest are the activities of the UNDP-funded Somali Civil Protection Programme (SCPP), which has implemented a three-year programme of capacity-building measures for mine-action coordination

structures in the north-west of the country. The authorities, with funding from CARE International and assistance from SCPP, have produced a comprehensive draft national mine-action policy.

103. The mine-action programme in Somalia is now well under way, with viable national coordinating mechanisms established in the north-west. Four international clearance organizations are active in the region, and a local mine-clearance organization is in the process of being formed. It is expected that lessons learned in the north-west will facilitate the expansion of activities in other regions, as new resources are directed to the north-east, central and southern parts of the country. In this context, a number of non-governmental organizations and private companies are active throughout the country, and are providing assistance in a myriad of mine-action activities. In addition, it is possible that recent and encouraging political developments in Somalia will promote further stability and result in the expansion of the current capabilities of the mine-action programme.

O. Southern Lebanon

104. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), pursuant to Security Council resolution 425 (1978), has a mandate to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, to restore international peace and security and to assist the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area. As part of this mandate, UNIFIL is required to conduct mine-clearance activities in support of its operational objectives. Immediately prior to the commencement of the Israeli withdrawal, the Force Commander of UNIFIL requested that the United Nations Mine Action Service, as the focal point for mine-action activities within the United Nations system, conduct an assessment of the scope and nature of the problem, and provide recommendations for an appropriate response.

105. The United Nations Mine Action Service subsequently conducted an initial assessment mission to southern Lebanon, from 26 March to 1 June 2000. A number of conclusions were reached as a result of this mission, including a recommendation that a coordination mechanism within UNIFIL be established in order to coordinate the mine-action response, and to develop clear operational and humanitarian priorities in the area. The UNIFIL Regional Mine Action Coordination Cell was established on 19 June 2000, and now has three full-time staff.

106. The Government of Lebanon has recently approved the conduct of an emergency survey in southern Lebanon in order to help address the humanitarian concerns in the area. Funding has been secured from the international donor community to conduct an emergency landmine survey of southern Lebanon, under the coordination of the UNIFIL Mine Action Coordination Cell. The survey will confirm the locations of mined areas, and will mark and record these areas for subsequent clearance. Two non-governmental organizations, Norwegian People's Aid and the Survey Action Centre, are preparing to commence survey activities. The data collected in this initial effort will complement level I impact survey information requirements, ultimately reducing the time and effort that will be required for this survey, which is scheduled to take place in 2000.

P. Sri Lanka

107. Over the past 18 years, Sri Lanka has endured confrontation between Government forces and the armed Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam, including the deployment of landmines by both sides. Most of the armed confrontation has taken place in the northern and eastern provinces of the country.

108. At the request of the Government, a small UNDP mine-action pilot project was initiated in 1999, as an integral component of the Jaffna Rehabilitation and Resettlement Programme. The project activities included minefield surveys, mine awareness and the establishment of a database (IMSMA). The level I (or general) survey activities were conducted by local staff trained by the project, while the level II survey and limited clearance tasks were undertaken by an international contractor. The aim of the project was to assist displaced people in returning to their homes.

109. Unfortunately, owing to an outbreak of fighting and the scaling back of United Nations activities in the Jaffna peninsula, the project was cancelled in May 2000.

Q. Sudan

110. After more than four decades of conflict, significant portions of the Sudan remain severely

contaminated by mines and unexploded ordnance. This continues to hamper the return of internally displaced persons and associated relief efforts, such as those being undertaken by the United Nations and numerous non-governmental organizations within and beyond the framework of Operation Lifeline Sudan. According to information gathered in a United Nations assessment of the situation undertaken in July 1997, the southern portion of the country is particularly affected.

111. Within the Government of the Sudan, mine action and related humanitarian concerns fall under the responsibility of the Humanitarian Aid Commission, which is expected to play the lead role in the planning and implementation of future mine-action activities. With regard to areas under the control of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, these issues are the responsibility of the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association (SRRA). More specifically, SRRA has commissioned an association, Operation Save Innocent Lives, to address the landmine problem, and is involved with both clearance and mine-awareness activities.

112. Some mine-awareness and risk reduction activities have been undertaken in the Sudan, albeit on a limited scale. In June 1999, working in collaboration with international and local non-governmental organizations, UNICEF launched a year-long campaign for school-based training courses on mine awareness in the eastern region. A selection of education and advocacy materials relating to landmines, including radio and television campaigns, is also being developed with additional assistance from UNHCR.

R. Thailand

113. As a result of the spill-over effect of armed conflict in neighbouring countries and internal insurgencies during the past 30 years, Thailand is affected by anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance, most notably along the Thai-Cambodian border. In April 1998, the Thai Government set up an inter-departmental national committee to address the landmine problem, and established the Thai Mine Action Centre (TMAC) in early 1999.

114. These national efforts have been supported by international assistance. This includes the provision of training and equipment by the United States, and the carrying out of a level I survey, provision of the IMSMA database and training by the United Nations. UNDP has formulated a technical support project to assist TMAC. The project is currently being refined, and agreement is expected to be reached before the end of 2000.

S. Yemen

115. Matching the perceived commitment of Yemen to dealing with its landmine and unexploded ordnance problem, UNDP has provided assistance to the country's national mine-action programme, as have numerous donor Governments. A National Demining Committee (NDC) was created in June 1998 and is continuing to coordinate and manage mine-action activities in the country. As part of these responsibilities and as a result of the United Nations inter-agency assessment mission which visited in September 1998, NDC has been involved in the recent completion of a level I survey by the Survey Action Centre and the anticipated application of these data to the national mine-action plan.

116. In July 1998, the Government of Yemen invited the United States of America to initiate a demining project, the initial phase of which was completed in April 1999. This project supported the acquisition of demining headquarter centres, a demining training centre and demining equipment, and trained two demining companies. With the ongoing support of the United States, this project has been extended until at least 2002.

117. With regard to mine-awareness and victim assistance issues, a number of international and local non-governmental organizations, in collaboration with UNICEF, have been carrying out activities targeting affected populations. The United Nations mine-action support programme in Yemen covers all components of mine action, and is working towards ensuring the long-term viability of the national programme.

VI. Comprehensive approach to mine action

118. The scope and methodology of mine-action activities have expanded rapidly over the past decade. A new approach has emerged, which is no longer exclusively centred on mine clearance but also emphasizes the impact of the mine problem, taking into

consideration relevant socio-economic issues and the importance of long-term solutions. This evolution has required the development, initiation, coordination and support of activities that now include mine awareness training, victim assistance, rehabilitation, reintegration efforts and advocacy. Most recently, the United Nations has recognized the need to be able to provide assistance in destroying stockpiles of mines as an additional element of mine action.

119. In addressing all aspects of mine action in diverse environments, ranging from emergency relief through national capacity-building for long-term development, United Nations activities must be well-defined and targeted. There is a standing requirement to identify and adhere to a clearly enunciated set of priorities, complemented by increased efforts to raise additional resources. These priorities include developing a better understanding of the landmine and unexploded ordnance problem vis-à-vis humanitarian concerns.

120. Several different techniques are applied by the United Nations to define better the mine and unexploded ordnance problem. Accurate and timely information is collected through the conduct of inter-agency assessment missions to affected countries, including details of the extent and nature of the mine problem and of the available local capacity to deal with the threat posed. Subsequent analysis of these data results in recommendations, which form the basis for future assistance.

121. A similar and more detailed technique is the level I impact survey which is, in effect, a more detailed information-gathering exercise aimed at defining the exact impact of landmines and unexploded ordnance on affected populations. In this context, the deployment of IMSMA will enhance the ability to provide advice on coordination and will also be of use to national authorities of affected countries in developing their own plans of action. The United Nations remains ready to undertake assessment missions, and will continue to support the conduct of level I impact surveys and the introduction of IMSMA as funds become available.

122. The United Nations intends to apply these techniques primarily in response to the humanitarian consequences of landmines and unexploded ordnance. Indeed, while operations mandated by the Security Council will also frequently require mine-action support, the terrible effects of mines on innocent civilians must be the primary incentive for effective funding. Where feasible, resources raised through the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action should be allocated for humanitarian purposes, while assessed budget contributions are applied to mine-action activities undertaken in support of missions mandated by the Security Council.

VII. Observations

123. The global landmine problem continues to pose daunting challenges to the international community and the United Nations system. This is the result of a sharp increase in the number of countries and areas requiring assistance in mine action, and the consequent need to spread a finite amount of resources and donor funds over a problem that has grown markedly in scope. Compounding this situation is the expectation that the United Nations system will be called upon more and more by Member States to provide assistance to regions affected by mines and unexploded ordnance, in addition to having to devote increasing efforts to facilitate the successful execution of pressing treaty obligations. In the context of such pressures, the Secretary-General would like to express his appreciation for the continued strong support shown for mine action by numerous organizations outside the United Nations system, including OAS, GICHD, ICRC and many non-governmental organizations.

124. Within these constraints, a priority for the United Nations is to identify new sources of mine-action resources. Some funding has already been secured from the United Nations Foundation, through the United Nations Foundation for International Partnerships. These resources have been successfully employed to initiate and develop the global level I survey project that has recently completed a survey in Yemen. The resources made possible the implementation of a critical safety project for relief workers operating in 15 of the world's most severely mine-affected countries. Such efforts to promote partnerships for mine action between public and private actors will be sustained and, indeed, strengthened.

125. At the same time, much more is required in order for United Nations mine-action activities to be sustained to meet successfully all expectations of the international community and the countries affected. Of key importance in this regard, and in keeping with the report on United Nations peace operations presented to

the General Assembly at its present session (A/55/305-S/2000/809), mine action should cease to be treated as a temporary requirement, and the United Nations Mine Action Service should be firmly established as a core function of the United Nations, with resources provided through assessed contributions. Indeed, the core functions of the Service, which include monitoring the threat, the provision and application of international standards, the deployment of an information management system, international coordination, resource mobilization and quality control, will all continue until the landmine problem is reduced to acceptable risk levels.

Notes

[1] See CD/1478.

[2] CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I), annex B.

[3] See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII.

[4] Edited and produced by Human Rights Watch, United States of America, August 2000.

Annex

Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action

A. Total contributions by donor, as at 18 October 2000

(United States dollars)

Donor	*Payment*	*Pledge*	*Total*
Member States and countries with observer status			
Andorra	20 500.00	-	20 500.00
Austria	258 348.24	-	258 348.24
Australia	1 221 111.41	-	1 221 111.41
Belgium	1 867 640.96	160 000.00	2 027 640.96
Brazil	3 000.00	-	3 000.00
Cambodia	1 000.00	-	1 000.00
Canada	3 771 243.32	135 000.00	3 906 243.32
Croatia	1 000.00	-	1 000.00
China	100 000.00	-	100 000.00
Czech Republic	22 500.00	-	22 500.00
Denmark	5 016 817.37	-	5 016 817.37
Estonia	2 000.00	-	2 000.00
Finland	512 045.59	-	512 045.59
France	721 021.90	-	721 021.90
Germany	2 368 055.46	-	2 368 055.46
Greece	80 000.00	-	80 000.00
Holy See	14 000.00	-	14 000.00
Iceland	10 000.00	-	10 000.00
Indonesia	40 000.00	-	40 000.00
Ireland	1 070 341.10	-	1 070 341.10
Israel	98 000.00	-	98 000.00
Italy	2 188 072.23	-	2 188 072.23
Japan	13 084 103.35	-	13 084 103.35
Korea, Republic of	530 000.00	-	530 000.00
Liechtenstein	65 838.02	-	65 838.02
Luxembourg	352 753.98	-	352 753.98
Malta	1 952.00	-	1 952.00
Mauritius	10 000.00	-	10 000.00
Monaco	55 629.00	-	55 629.00
Namibia	500.00	-	500.00
Netherlands	1 311 669.79	-	1 311 669.79
New Zealand	584 700.00	-	584 700.00
Norway	4 595 432.43	-	4 595 432.43

Donor	*Payment*	*Pledge*	*Total*
Portugal	159 456.00	-	159 456.00
San Marino	14 977.50	-	14 977.50
Saudi Arabia	50 000.00	-	50 000.00
Slovakia	10 000.00	-	10 000.00
Spain	1 415 973.21	-	1 415 973.21
Sweden	1 495 898.40	-	1 495 898.40
Switzerland	3 777 630.73	-	3 777 630.73
United Kingdom	2 588 747.57	550 000.00	3 138 747.57
United States of America	2 677 500.00	-	2 677 500.00
Subtotal	**52 169 459.56**	**845 000.00**	**53 014 459.56**
Other sources			
European Union	13 823 307.60	1 793 000.00	15 616 307.60
Individuals	6 865.94	-	6 865.94
Subtotal	**13 830 173.54**	**1 793 000.00**	**15 623 173.54**
Total	**65 999 633.10**	**2 638 000.00**	**68 637 633.10**

B. Total contributions by earmarking, as at 18 October 2000

(United States dollars)

Earmarking	*Payment*	*Pledge*	*Total*
Afghanistan	1 262 190.02	-	1 262 190.02
Angola	8 285 841.76	-	8 285 841.76
Azerbaijan	500 000.00	-	500 000.00
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10 127 866.09	-	10 127 866.09
Cambodia	680 000.00	-	680 000.00
Chad	479 999.48	-	479 999.48
Congo	393 626.52	-	393 626.52
Croatia	6 013 276.14	-	6 013 276.14
Ethiopia/Eritrea	1 156 276.60	-	1 156 276.60
Guatemala	230 000.00	-	230 000.00
Lao People's Democratic Republic	700 000.00	-	700 000.00
Lebanon	100 000.00	635 000.00	735 000.00
Mozambique	5 765 377.35	-	5 765 377.35
Nicaragua	747 498.96	-	747 498.96
Somalia	363 130.05	-	363 130.05
Sri Lanka	59 999.61	-	59 999.61
Sudan	199 442.00	-	199 442.00
Tajikistan	75 000.00	-	75 000.00
Thailand	400 000.00	-	400 000.00

Earmarking	*Payment*	*Pledge*	*Total*
Yugoslavia (Kosovo)	7 400 242.98	1 793 000.00	9 193 242.98
Yemen	2 177 832.21	-	2 177 832.21
Subtotal, programmes	**47 117 599.76**	**2 428 000.00**	**49 545 599.76**
Conferences			
Geneva, July 1995	780 027.19	-	780 027.19
Copenhagen, July 1996	119 270.97	-	119 270.97
Tokyo, July 1997	155 447.00	-	155 447.00
Subtotal, conferences	**1 054 745.16**	**-**	**1 054 745.16**
Multi-country study	367 888.64	-	367 888.64
Safety handbook	183 282.80	-	183 282.80
Global survey	92 593.80	-	92 593.80
Mine dog	124 000.00	-	124 000.00
Subtotal projects	**767 765.24**	**-**	**767 765.24**
Headquarters coordination	5 826 720.12	50 000.00	5 876 720.12
Emergencies	130 500.00	-	130 500.00
Total earmarked	**54 897 330.28**	**2 478 000.00**	**57 375 330.28**
Unearmarked (to be determined)	10 005 950.35 1 096 352.47	- 160 000.00	10 005 950.35 1 256 352.47
Total	**65 999 633.10**	**2 638 000.00**	**68 637 633.10**